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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/526,306	03/02/2005	Dolf Henricus Jozef Van Casteren	NL 020860	3591
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			EXAMINER A, MINH D	
			ART UNIT 2821	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/526,306

Applicant(s)

VAN CASTEREN, DOLF
HENRICUS JOZEF

Examiner

Minh D. A

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☒ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a response to the Applicants' filing on 3/2/05. In virtue of this filing, claims 1-8 are currently presented in the instant application.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification Unaccepted

3. The specification submitted on 3/2/05 is unaccepted as following:

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses

a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Drawings Accepted

4. The drawings submitted on 3/2/05 are accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 7, the phrase "wherein the first signal is the current measured in the first position, the second signal is the current measured in the second position, and the third signal is the sum of the current measured in the first position and the simultaneously measured current in the second position" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. The first, second and third signal will be measured from which circuitry or what kind of design circuit would be measured the sum of the current. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Objections

7. Claim 8 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claims 6 or 7 and 1-5. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claim 8 not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

9. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Tao et al (U.S. Pub. No: US 2002/0113556A1).

Regarding claim 1, Tap discloses, in figures 6A-7, a self-oscillating electronic discharge lamp ballast with dimming control comprising a switch-mode power supply (a simplified having a plurality of switches (D1 and D3)) for supplying power to the discharge lamp, the switch-mode power supply circuit (the simplified circuit) comprising a half- or full-bridge (rectifier) commutating forward converter with at least a rail line (see attached Line 1 in figure7) for supplying a rail voltage, a first switching element (D1), a second switching element (D3), and an output node(Node B)(see attached in figure 7) between said switching elements(D1 and D3) for supplying current to the lamp; a current-determining circuit(transformer) for providing a signal representative of the converter current; wherein the current-determining circuit(transformer) comprises a first current sensing circuit(Ns1) for sensing the current in a first position between the rail (line 1) and the output node (Node B) and a second current sensing circuit(Ns2) for sensing the current in a second position between the output node(Node B) and ground. Col.4, paragraph [0044] to paragraph [0049].

Regarding claim 2, Tap discloses, in figures 6A-7, a self-oscillating electronic discharge lamp ballast with dimming control comprising the first sensing circuit comprises a first current transformer (Ns1) having a primary winding connected to said first position and the second sensing circuit comprises a second current transformer (Ns2) having a primary winding connected to said second position, the secondary windings of the first and second current transformers being connected in series for providing a combined signal representative of the converter current.

Regarding claim 3, Tap discloses, in figures 6A-7, a self-oscillating electronic discharge lamp ballast with dimming control comprising a gate driving circuit (D1) connected to the gates of the first switching element (D1) and the second switching element (D3) and to the current-determining circuit for controlling the switching of the switching elements (D1 and D3) on the basis of said signal representative of the converter current.

Regarding claim 4, Tap discloses, in figures 6A-7, a self-oscillating electronic discharge lamp ballast with dimming control comprising a switch-mode power supply (a simplified having a plurality of switches (D1 and D3)) for supplying power to the discharge lamp, the switch-mode power supply circuit (the simplified) comprising a half- or full-bridge (rectifier) commutating forward converter with at least a rail line (see attached Line 1 in figure 7) for supplying a rail voltage, a first switching element (D1), a second switching element (D3), and an output node (Node B) (see attached in figure 7) between said switching elements (D1 and D3) for supplying current to the lamp; a current-determining circuit (transformer) for providing a signal representative of the

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converter current; wherein the current-determining circuit(transformer) comprises a first current sensing circuit(Ns1) for sensing the current in a first position between the rail (line 1) and the output node (Node B) and a second current sensing circuit(Ns2) for sensing the current in a second position between the output node(Node B) and ground.

Col.4, paragraph [0044] to paragraph [0049].

Regarding claim 5, Tap discloses, in figures 6A-7, a self-oscillating electronic discharge lamp ballast with dimming control comprising the first sensing circuit comprises a first current transformer (Ns1) having a primary winding connected to said first position and the second sensing circuit comprises a second current transformer (Ns2) having a primary winding connected to said second position, the secondary windings of the first and second current transformers being connected in series for providing a combined signal representative of the converter current.

Regarding claim 6, Tap discloses, in figures 6A-7, a self-oscillating electronic discharge lamp ballast with dimming control comprising a converter (rectifier or switches or inverter (D1 and D3)) to a gas discharge lamp, the converter including at least a rail line(line 1, see attached in figure 7) for supplying a rail voltage, a first switching (D1) element, a second switching (D2) element, and an output node (Node B) between the switching elements for supplying current to the lamp, the steps of: the first NS1) for sensing the current in the converter in a first position between the rail line (line 1) and the output node(Node B) and providing a first output signal; a second transformer (NS2) for sensing the current in the converter in a second position between the output node and ground and providing a second output signal; adding the first and second output

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signals so as to provide a third output signal representative of the converter current(Q1 and Q2) . Col.4, paragraph [0044] to paragraph [0049].

Regarding claims 7-8, Tap discloses, in figure 7, a self-oscillating electronic discharge lamp ballast with dimming control comprising wherein the first signal (D1) is the current measured in the first position, the second signal (D3) is the current measured in the second position, and the third signal(Q1 and Q2) is the sum of the current measured in the first position and the simultaneously measured current in the second position.

Citation of relevant prior art

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art Xia et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,691,605) discloses an electrode ballast with interface circuitry for multiple dimming inputs.

Prior art Jayaraman et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,650,694) discloses a lamp controller with lamp status detection and safety circuitry.

Prior art Venkitasubrahmanian et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,604,411) discloses an electronic ballast having a triac dimming filter with pre-conditioner offset control.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Dieu A whose telephone number is (571) 272-1817. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (5:30 AM-2: 45 PM).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Owens Douglas W can be reached on (571) 272-1662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner

Minh A

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6/24/07


SHIH-CHAO CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

